

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 302499

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR

SUBJECT:IREX TALKS WITH SOVDEL TO 1975 US-USSR EXCHANGES
REVIEW TALKS

REF: STATE 295448

1. DURING DEC 19 MEETING WITH IREX, SOVDEL PROPOSED RAISING GS/YF LEVEL FOR AY 76/77 TO FIFTY-FIVE; RAISING STIPENDS TO 215 RUBLES/DOLS 300 FOR GS/YF AND 290 RUBLES/DOLS 380 FOR SENIOR SCHOLARS; MOVING DATE FOR EXCHANGE OF LISTS OF CANDIDATES UP TO FEBRUARY ONE OR FIFTEEN, AND DATE FOR NOTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE PLACEMENT TO APRIL ONE. SOVDEL ALSO INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH DEPT'S SUGGESTION THAT SUMMER LANGUAGE TEACHER PROGRAM BE RAISED TO THIRTY-SEVEN.

2. IREX RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE DEFINITE REPLY RE NUMBERS BEFORE KASSOF'S VISIT TO MOSCOW IN JANUARY BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES IN IREX'S BUDGETARY SITUATION, THAT IREX THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GO TO THIRTY-SEVEN ON THE SUMMER LANGUAGE PROGRAM, AND WAS HOPING
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PAGE 02 STATE 302499

TO MAINTAIN PRESENT FIFTY LEVEL FOR THE GS/YF PROGRAM BUT

WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO HIGHER. IREX AGREED TO NEW DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATES AND NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCES AND PROPOSED SAME DATES SHOULD APPLY TO SENIOR SCHOLARS. SOVIETS NON-COMMITTAL RE LATTER PROPOSAL BUT AGREED TO TRY.

3. DISCUSSING DIRECT UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES, SOVDEL SAID THAT SOVIETS WERE AWAITING CONCRETE PROPOSALS FROM US UNIVERSITIES, INDICATING THAT MHE WOULD BOTH BE INVOLVED IN APPROVING EXCHANGES AND TAKE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS THIS SUBJECT).

4. IREX REPORTS THAT TALKS TOOK PLACE IN WARM, POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE AND THAT SOVDEL DID NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS UNDER CURRENT PROGRAM. KISSINGER

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